

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 02392 131131Z
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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8554

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 2392

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM PINT NP IN US

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER GIRI ON B. P. KOIRALA AND HUMAN RIGHTS

1. FOLLOWING MY DISCUSSION ON ANOTHER MATTER WITH PRIME MINISTER GIRI JUNE 12 (KATHMANDU 2374), GIRI TURNED THE CONVERSATION TO B.PWOB KOIRALA AND ASKED WHETHER THE UNITED STATES WAS GOING TO TREAT KOIRALA AS A STATE GUEST, " AS INDIA HAD." I REPLIED THAT THE ONLY USG ACTIVITY IN CONNECTION WITH B.P. KOIRALA THAT I KNEW OF WAS THE ISSUANCE OF A VISA, WHT AS THE EMBASSY HAD DONE IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. I ASKED THE PRIME MINISTER WHY HE HAD ASKED THE QUESTION AND HE REPLIED TO THE EFFECT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER IS VERY INTERESTED IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND " HAS MENTIONED NEPAL AND OTHER COUNTRIES" IN THAT CONNECTION. I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW FOR HIM THE BACKGROUND OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S DUBMISSION ON NEPAL AND THE 80-ODD OTHER COUNTRIES RECEIVING MILITARY ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING THE LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENT FOR A REPORT ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN YEEACH RECIPIENT COUNTRY. I ALSO NOTED THE PRESIDENT'S MAY 22 SPEECH AND THE SECRETARY' S OF APRIL 30, AND TOLD THE PRIME MINISTER I WOULD SEND HIM COPIES OF BOTH.

2. GIRI'S COMMENTS ARE REPRESENTATIVE OF BOTH THE
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CONFUSION AND CONCERN WHICH GON OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN EXHIBITINVOVERYUTHE ADMINISTRATION'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES, PARTICULARLY IN THE CONTEXT OF THIR OWN IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS WITH INDIA AND B.P. KOIRALA. IN AN EFFORT TO GIVE THEM A CLEARER PICTURE, I HAVE USED THE OCCASIONS OF RECENT MEETINGS WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, AND PALAE FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISER

CHIRAN THAPA TO REVIEW, AS I DID WITH GIRI, THE BACKGROUND OF THE DEPARTMENT'S SUBMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN NEPAL AND TO CALL TO THEIR ATTENTION AND LEAVE WITH THEM COPIES OF THE PRESIDENT'S NOTRE DAME SPEECH AND THE SECRETARY'S ADDRESS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA LAW SCHOOL.

3. MOST OFFICIALS AND POLITICAL FIGURES WE HAVE SPOKEN WITH EXPECT THAT B.P. KOIRALA WILL RETURN TO NEPAL FOLLOWING HIS MEDICAL TREATMENT ABROAD. HOWEVER, WHATEVER ARRANGEMENTS OR AGREEMENTS WERE MADE APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN DONE IN A PRIVATE MEETING BETWEEN B.P. AND THE KING, AND SO NO ONE IS CERTAIN OF WHAT UNDERSTANDINGS MAY HAVE BEEN REACHED. THERE HAS BEEN NO WIDESPREAD DISSEMINATION OF THE INFORMATION THAT HMG IS PAYING THE EXPENSES FOR B.P.'S MEDICAL TREATMENT, AND THERE HAS THEREFORE INEVITABLY BEEN SOME SPECULATION THAT INDIA AND/OR THE US IS PICKING UP THE TAB.
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